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Dear Government Official:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is committed to cooperation as well as coordination with governmental partners in the development of land use plans and the completion of environmental reviews for public lands uses. We have worked diligently to establish a culture of partnership in the management of public lands and resources for the greatest good for all Americans.

“Cooperating Agency” is a special status provided to governmental entities choosing to partner with us in the development of land use plans. This status allows us to invite state, local, and tribal governments, along with other Federal agencies, who have jurisdiction or special expertise to share their insights so that we can formulate plans that better reflect the needs and conditions of the communities we serve. The BLM and the Department of the Interior (DOI) are committed by regulation and policy to offer cooperating agency status to all eligible governmental partners during the land use planning and environmental review processes. “Coordination” is a key part of our day-to-day operation where we work with, communicate with, and partner with state, local and tribal government as we carry out our management responsibilities on public lands.

I am pleased to announce that the BLM has updated its “how to” guide on cooperative agency relationships in a newly published *Desk Guide to Cooperating Agency Relationships and Coordination with Intergovernmental Partners*. This guide helps to shape our collaborative efforts so we can recognize common goals and achieve balanced approaches to multiple use management across public lands.

Since the *Desk Guide* was first published in 2005, the BLM has completed more than 60 land use plans and has engaged more than 300 intergovernmental partners at the Federal, state, local and tribal levels. This new *Desk Guide* incorporates the sound advice and recommendations of our government partners and the lessons our managers and staff have learned from our experiences since 2005. It also explains the DOI’s revised regulations and policies and clarifies how cooperating agency status differs from our efforts to coordinate with partners.

I hope you find the updated *Desk Guide* helpful. Additional information is available through the BLM's cooperating agency web site: www.blm.gov/planning/cadg. Should you have questions, please contact the BLM Field Manager in your area. You may also contact Matthew Higdon, Planning and Environmental Analyst, at (202) 912-7282, or Cynthia Moses-Nedd, BLM Liaison to State and Local Government, at (202) 912-7446, in the BLM's Washington Office.

Sincerely,

/s/ Robert V. Abbey

Robert V. Abbey
Director, Bureau of Land Management

Enclosure

cc: Official – 210, Rm.503, M St
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